

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing advance information to a receiver
5 in a home network, comprising:
 providing auxiliary coding to said receiver; and
 providing data packets to said receiver;
 wherein said auxiliary coding is associated with data packets
on a packet-by-packet basis.

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2. The method of providing advance information to a
receiver in a home network according to claim 1, wherein:
 said auxiliary coding is encompassed within said data
packet.

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3. The method of providing advance information to a
receiver in a home network according to claim 1, wherein:
 said auxiliary coding is transmitted before said associated
data packet.

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4. The method of providing advance information to a
receiver in a home network according to claim 3, wherein:
 said auxiliary coding is inserted into a preamble of said data
packet.

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5. The method of providing advance information to a
receiver in a home network according to claim 1, further comprising:
 transmitting said auxiliary coding with a same RF front end
as said data packet.

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6. The method of providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 1, further comprising:
transmitting said auxiliary coding with a first RF front end;
and

5 transmitting said data packet with a second RF front end different from said first RF front end.

7. The method of providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 1, wherein:
10 said auxiliary coding is transmitted using FSK.

8. The method of providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 1, wherein:
said auxiliary coding is transmitted using BPSK.

15 9. The method of providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 1, wherein:
said auxiliary coding is transmitted using QAM.

20 10. The method of providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 1, wherein said auxiliary coding comprises:

a source address identifying a transmitter of said data packet.

25 11. The method of providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 10, wherein:
said source address is a local address.

12. The method of providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 10, wherein:
said source address comprises 5 or fewer symbols.

5 13. The method of providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 10, wherein:
said source address comprises 5 or fewer bits.

10 14. The method of providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 1, wherein:
said auxiliary coding is provided in a signal independent from a signal including said data packet.

15 15. The method of providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 1, wherein said auxiliary coding comprises at least one of:
data mode;
baud rate;
transmit station ID; and
20 coding information.

16. Apparatus of providing advance information to a receiver in a home network, comprising:
means for providing auxiliary coding to said receiver; and
25 means for providing data packets to said receiver;
wherein said means for providing auxiliary coding associates said auxiliary coding with data packets on a packet-by-packet basis.

17. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for providing auxiliary coding encompasses said auxiliary coding within said data packet.

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18. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for providing auxiliary coding transmits said auxiliary coding before said means for providing said data packet provides said associated data packet.

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19. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 18, wherein:

said means for providing auxiliary coding inserts said auxiliary coding into a preamble of said data packet.

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20. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 16, further comprising:

means for transmitting said auxiliary coding with a same RF front end as said data packet.

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21. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 16, further comprising:

means for transmitting said auxiliary coding with a first RF front end; and

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means for transmitting said data packet with a second RF front end different from said first RF front end.

22. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for providing auxiliary coding transmits said auxiliary coding using FSK.

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23. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for providing auxiliary coding transmits said auxiliary coding using BPSK.

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24. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for providing auxiliary coding transmits said auxiliary coding using QAM.

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25. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 16, wherein said auxiliary coding comprises:

a source address identifying a transmitter of said data packet.

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26. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 25, wherein:

said source address is a local address.

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27. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 25, wherein:

said source address comprises 5 or fewer symbols.

28. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 25, wherein:
said source address comprises 5 or fewer bits.

5 29. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 16, wherein:
said means for providing said auxiliary coding provides said auxiliary coding in a signal independent from a signal including said data packet.

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30. The apparatus for providing advance information to a receiver in a home network according to claim 16, wherein said auxiliary coding comprises at least one of:

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data mode;
baud rate;
transmit station ID; and
coding information.

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